

April 17, 2008

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXIX No. 8

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South... Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, April 17th 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	A short business meeting..Auction (one item lot per member please)..Door Prize..Show & Tell..Members' trade-sell tables (free to members, please ignore during business meeting.) Program: A review of our <u>Show Experience Weekend</u> and the showing of the Show treasures you gathered..and/or tales of how well you did selling your "apples" so you could buy "oranges."

### SHOW EXPERIENCE 2008 REVIEW:

To all the members who were unable to take part in our three day Show Experience Weekend, you missed a fun three days. It began on thursday evening at our special Show Experience Weekend meeting where guest speaker Ms. Marti Jones, president of the Photographic Historical Society of New England, gave a most entertaining talk and slide show on her collecting interest of toy and novelty cameras; to a good size crowd of members and their guests. With nummies provided by Don a good, fun, interesting time was had by all in attendance.

On friday your hard working Show Committee, composed of: Bill Adams, Harold Beyea, Merle Carey, Stuart Curry, Sheila Frasser, Don Friend, Walter Hughson, Mike Immel, Bob Kelly, Bill Kimber, Stan Kirlin, Gene Raddatz, David Rystrom, Gary Sivertsen, Shirley Sparrow and Darrel Womack prepared the hall for our friday evening set-up/and seller wheeling and dealing...followed at 8:30 p.m. by our hosted hospitality gathering where tales of the hunt are told and friendships are made or renewed as delicious food and drink are consumed with pleasurer. Everyone seemed pleased and the wine flowed like..well, wine. Burp!!

Saturday saw our total number of tables in use grow to about 150 and by 4 p.m., as the Show closed, about five hundred eager buyers had found photograaphic items they could not live without. The number of our display tables was down a bit over past years but the quality of the displays was great. A list of the winners will be in next months Bellows. The weather..at our new Show date on the first weekend in April..was not great, but it was not horrible either. One book was reported stolen but in general the Show seemed free of the, "getting something for nothing folks." All our volunteer ticket takers and Hospitality Gathering hosts did a very fine job but Ms. Nagel was best of the best on the door. Donie the gopher was "Johnny on the spot" and may well be college material.

The vast majority of the sellers talked too seemed pleased and requested that P.S.P.C.S. hold another Show in 2009. The chances are very good that the Show Committee will decide to do so.

\*\*\*\*\*

### This Month's Mystery Question

Answers at end of Newsletter.

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society

What company in Japan made only three subminiature cameras and they were introduced in 1948? Hint: Two of the cameras were named after a part of a flower.

★ ★ ★ BACKSIDE INFORMATION ★ ★ ★

The March 20th meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 33 members and guests in attendance. The minutes from the February 21st meeting were approved as read. The Treasurer reported that we may have to dip into our CD by the beginning of 2009.

OLD BUSINESS & SHOW REPORT:

There was no old business. Show Chairman, Bill Kimber, reported all was going according to plan with the Show Committee hard at work; but that Mike Immel could use several more ticket takers. Mike passed around a sign up sheet. Darrel reported that around 85 tables had been sold or spoken for but that he expected that number to grow in the coming days. (See page one. Ed.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Our special Show Experience Weekend meeting will be on the evening of April 3rd. There will be no Bellows to remind members of this special meeting. Our next regular Club meeting will be held on April 17th.

It was reported that the Tucson Show had 55 tables and approximately 175 buyers through the door.

SHOW & TELL: Six members brought recent nice finds to share with the membership. Thanks to you all.

PROGRAM:

Four members brought their favorite toy or novelty photographic item to share. All were very interesting and very nice examples of this area of collecting. Again, thanks to you all.

AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZE:

Four items were up for auction. Two received no opening bids. The other two sold for a total of \$40.00.

The door prize was won by Lowell Wines.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. for more selling conversations and nummie munching.



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be send to Bill Kimber, 1413 Weathervane Drive, Tacoma, WA 98466-5712, (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is [www.pspcs.org](http://www.pspcs.org)

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922, (509) 674-1916, [sesparrow9@msn.com](mailto:sesparrow9@msn.com) P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our yearly April show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 [DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET)



## Joseph Mihalyi, Camera Designer or Not All My Ideas Are Good Ones

by Michael Henry

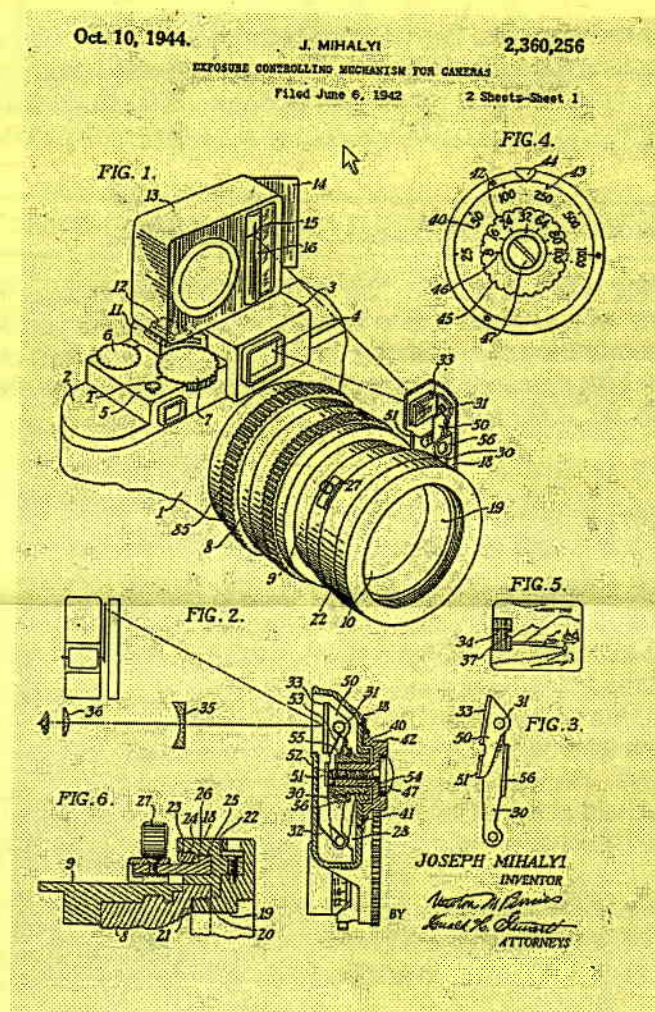
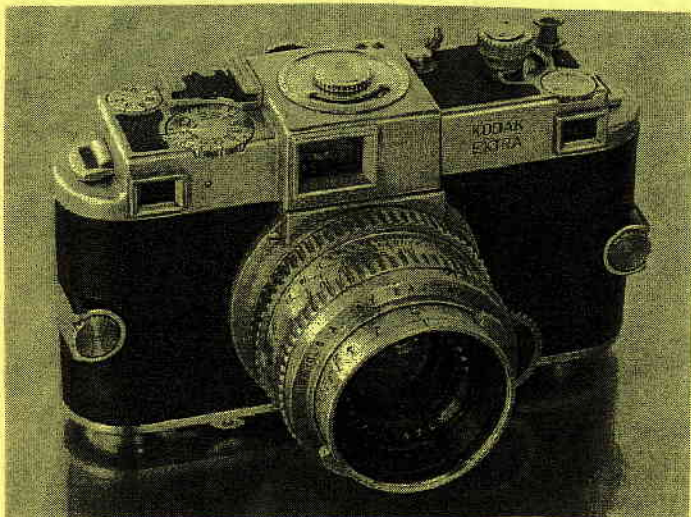
My friend Ryan Mihalyi was telling me about finding information on Joseph Mihalyi who, as it turns out, was a designer for Eastman Kodak in the 1930's. With a name as unique as Mihalyi (pronounced Ma-haul-ee) and an exact spelling Ryan became interested in Joseph's story.

Joseph Mihalyi came to the U. S. from Hungary in 1907 and was hired by Kodak in 1923 as an apparatus designer. Mihalyi's inventive mind contributed ergonomic design ideas for the Kodak Bantam Special, Super 620, Ektra, and Medalist. His interest in rangefinders included the designs of two free-standing models for Kodak, the excellent rangefinders in the Ektra, Super 620, Bantam Special, and Medalist. He was responsible for the 828 film format, an improved use of 35mm film stock. A couple of notable contemporaries were Rudolf Kingslake and Walter Dorwin Teague.

With Christmas approaching, I had the great idea to locate and buy an Ektra as a unique "thank you" gift for Ryan who occasionally works as my assistant. In my search I found this interesting piece of info:

*"The Ektra was a very advanced 35mm rangefinder camera launched by Kodak USA in 1941. Before World War II, Kodak presented some really advanced cameras under the supervision of Joe Mihalyi, among which the Medalist, Super Six 20, and Bantam Special.*

*The Ektra was a 35mm coupled rangefinder camera. The shutter was of the focal plane type, from 1s to 1/1000, with horizontally traveling cloth curtains. The Ektra had a system of interchangeable*



One of Joseph Mihalyi's many patents

magazine backs, allowing to change film in the middle of a roll. The advance lever was at the left of the magazine back, and needed two strokes. The release button was at the left of the top plate. It is said that Mihalyi was left-handed, so all the camera was designed to be used by a left-handed person. The viewfinder incorporated a zoom device, from 50 to 254mm. Only the 35mm lens needed an external lens to be put in front of the finder. The Ektra had interchangeable lenses with a breech lock mount engaging a fine screw thread. All the lenses were named Ektar."

OK, this is all interesting stuff but I need to find one for sale and I'm getting nowhere fast so I decided to e-mail Rick Soloway and at least find out what McKeown's had to say about the Ektra. A quick check revealed a price of (gulp) \$1000 to \$1500. Yikes!

I guess when you're talking about gifts, it's the thought that counts and in this case all I could do was think about it. I've learned a lot about Joseph Mihalyi and the Kodak Ektra but I still don't have a gift. Hey, not all of my ideas are good ones.



## WANTED: DRY MOUNT PRESS:

Non-member Ms. Betty Sapp Ragan, from Tacoma, who does photography and mixed media is looking for a 26 by 36 inch dry mount press. If you have one for sale please contact her in one of the following ways: Her address..3801 North 33rd Street..Tacoma, WA 98407..Her Phone..(253) 759-5706..her e-mail..esappragan@yahoo.com Thank you. Ed.

## SHIRLEY HAS SHOW BUTTONS FOR SALE:

Shirley tells me that she has some Club Show buttons from past Shows to sell at a dollar each. If any of you would like to fill out your collection or you would like to have some as a remembrance of our Shows and P.S.P.C.S....and help our Club treasury...see Shirley at our April 17th meeting or contact her at home. The years she does NOT have buttons for are: 1998..99..2000 and 2005.

## ANOTHER OF THE GOOD ONES IS GONE:

MIKE HANEMANN, long time Portland camera collector and P.S.P.C.S. member, passed March 31st at his home, after a long illness. Originally from Texas, Mike lived in the Portland area for decades, working for the US forest Service. After his retirement he devoted much of his time to taking pictures and developing his extensive and significant collection of Graflex cameras and literature. A video series of some of his collection appeared on Portland public affairs television. Mike was an early member of P.S.P.C.S. and a frequent exhibitor at our Shows. He was a regular member of the setup and overnight security teams when our Shows were held at Kent Commons. He was also a member of numerous other photographic organizations including the Portland-based Cascade Photographic Historical Society.

A very knowledgeable photo enthusiast, he was always willing to help with research topics and aid fellow photographers and collectors. Mike also co-founded the "Graflex Historic Quarterly," now in its 13th year. In addition, he contributed articles to other publications.

Mike is survived by his wife Cam and numerous children and grandchildren. A memorial service is scheduled at Holy Family Catholic Church, 39th & Knapp, Portland, Oregon on April 22d at 11 a.m.

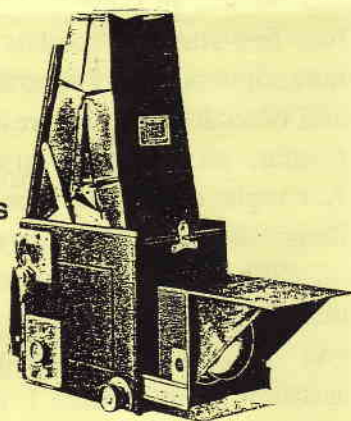


Photo by John Welch. Taken with Graflex RBB and Busch Portrait Aplanat in 2003.

So

What company in Japan made only three subminiature cameras and they were introduced in 1948?

Hint: Two of the cameras are named after a part of a flower.

Answer: The Sakura Seiki

Company made the Petal subminiature camera in two models, a round and an octagonal design. According to McKeown's, another octagonal camera is a variant of the Petal but called the Evarax A with a floral design on the front. The round model is considered to be the most common but it is still quite pricey. One recently went for \$500 on eBay.

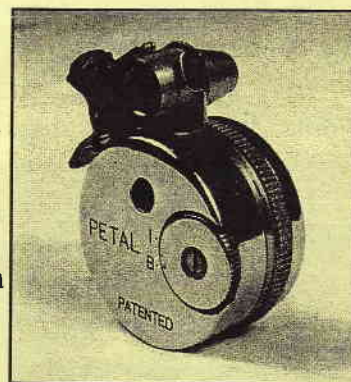


Photo courtesy <<http://vintagephoto.tv/>>